

But Bob and Carolyn are just one story in the 47 years of Peace Corps history. Working in the fields of education, health and HIV/AIDS, the environment, youth, agriculture, information technology, and business development, 190,000 brave men and women, serving in 139 countries, have dedicated over 2 years of their lives to make significant achievements, enriching the lives of others and serving their country.

In these uncertain times, Peace Corps volunteers remain committed to the goals of international peace, friendship, and understanding by sharing their unparalleled experience to those back home. I pray that the good work of these and other Peace Corps volunteers will raise awareness and that others will be called to follow their good example.

For the record, I would like to submit the names of the 36 Arkansans currently serving in the Peace Corps. They are John Armstrong, Amanda Barker, Anthony Barnum, Melanie Berman, Susan Boswell Pierce, Robert Bryant, Allyson Carr, Adam Carson, Garrard Conley, Erin Gibbs, Jared Gillis, Laurel Gladish, Allison Green, Rebecca Hedges, Cameron Highsmith, Brian Hilburn, Joseph Hill, James Hollins, Jenny Hurst, Julia Jones, Adelia Kittrell, Nicholas Klinger, Theodis Lever, Tara Loftis, Stanley Luker, Jennifer Lusk, Daniel McGinley, Joshua Mosley, Danielle Rinke, Mary Rinnert, Rebecca Robinson, Deborah Romes, Christin Spradley, Kristen Straw, Jackson Taylor, Nikolette Williams. I thank them all for their devoted service to their country and steadfast dedication to improving the lives of the disadvantaged.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

REMEMBERING DEAMONTE DRIVER

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I come to the floor to mark the 1-year anniversary of Deamonte Driver's death.

Deamonte was a 12-year-old from Prince George's County, MD. He died at Children's Hospital here in Washington as the result of a brain infection brought on by an untreated tooth abscess.

The Driver family, like many other families across the country, lacked dental insurance. At one point his family had Medicaid coverage, but they lost it because they had moved into a temporary shelter and their paperwork fell through the cracks. When advocates for the family tried to help, it took more than 20 calls just to find a dentist who would treat him.

Deamonte began to complain about a headache on January 11. But an evaluation at Children's Hospital led beyond

basic dental care to emergency brain surgery. He later experienced seizures, and he then required a second operation.

Even though he received additional treatment and therapy, and he appeared to be recovering, medical intervention had come too late. Deamonte passed away on Sunday, February 25, 2007.

At the end, the total cost of his treatment exceeded a quarter of a million dollars—more than three thousand times the \$80 it would have cost for a tooth extraction.

When his case was brought to light, I believe that it served as a wake-up call for our Nation. Many of my colleagues also came to the Senate floor to speak about the lessons of this case. Senators BINGAMAN, COLLINS, SNOWE, and SANDERS, and many others, have been outspoken about these issues for years, and I want to acknowledge and thank them for their efforts.

We talked about the realities of access to dental care in this country. Here are some basic facts:

According to the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, dental decay is the most common chronic childhood disease among children in the United States. It affects one in five children aged 2 to 4, half of those aged 6 to 8, and nearly three-fifths of 15-year-olds. Tooth decay is five times more common than asthma among school-age children. Children living in poverty suffer twice as much tooth decay as middle- and upper-income children; 39 percent of Black children have untreated tooth decay in their permanent teeth; 11 percent of the Nation's rural population have never visited a dentist; and an estimated 25 million people live in areas that lack adequate dental care services.

Today the Senate is moving toward completion of the Indian Health Care Amendments Act of 2007, a bill that I support. According to a study released this week in the Journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics, of all groups in this country, Native American children had the worst access to dental care, and double the odds of White children of having their dental needs unmet.

At the end of January, a survey from the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene showed that fewer than one-third of Maryland kindergarten and third grade students have dental sealants. This report also shows that a third of these students also have untreated dental disease. These results correspond with the findings of a Dental Action Committee that our Health Secretary convened last year.

As we move forward, I want to emphasize that this is not just about dental care. This is a question of whether we are truly committed to improving the overall health of our children. Our former Surgeon General C. Everett Koop, once said, "There is no health without oral health."

Medical researchers have discovered the important linkage between plaque

and heart disease; that chewing stimulates brain cell growth; and that gum disease can signal diabetes, liver ailments and hormone imbalances. They have learned the vital connection between oral research and advanced treatments like gene therapy, which can help patients with chronic renal failure. They determined that a pregnant woman who has periodontal disease can be as much as seven times more likely to give birth to a premature or low-birthweight baby.

We heard the call to action in the 110th Congress, and demonstrated strong support for efforts to improve dental care for children in our Nation.

One year ago, I said that I hoped that Congress would include a dental guarantee in the CHIP reauthorization bill. We did that in a fiscally responsible way with bipartisan support. We also added provisions to improve the availability of information about dental coverage and participating dentists. But the President chose to veto that bill. We will keep trying because we know how important these provisions are to the overall health of our Nation's children.

We will also continue to work to increase funding for grants to States and expand training opportunities for pediatric dentists. We do not have enough professionals who are trained and available to treat children with dental problems, and it is a Federal responsibility to fix that. And we must improve public reimbursements to dental providers in offices and clinics so that no child who needs treatment will be turned away.

February is National Children's Dental Health Month. And so, this is a sad anniversary, but it is also our opportunity to recommit ourselves to addressing one of the most pressing health care issues facing our children. It is our duty to do so. We will never forget Deamonte Driver and we will never forget our responsibility to improving dental care for America's children.●

IN MEMORY OF OFFICER RANDAL SIMMONS

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, the city of Los Angeles and the nationwide law enforcement community has lost an exemplary leader. Officer Randal Simmons, a 27-year veteran of the Los Angeles Police Department and 20-year member of the department's elite Special Weapons and Tactics Team, SWAT, is the first officer in the team's four-decade history to die in the line of duty. I would like to take a few moments to recognize Officer Randal Simmons' many important accomplishments and the tremendous impact he made as a leader in both his personal and professional life.

Originally from New York City, Simmons' family moved to southern California early in his life. He graduated from Fairfax High School in 1974 and then attended Washington State University where he studied criminology

and was a member of the University's football team.

After college, Simmons returned to the city of Los Angeles and became a member of the Los Angeles Police Department. During his career, Simmons served in many high-crime areas where he worked to not only protect the local community but also to combat gang activity. His dedication to serving the residents of Los Angeles was well recognized when he earned the distinction of becoming a member of the department's elite SWAT Team.

Simmons was not only a leader to his fellow officers but also a highly respected leader in his community. Serving as an ordained minister, he was an active member of his church and helped to build a community gymnasium. He volunteered much of his time to lead a group ministry that served nearly 1,500 children and also found time to serve as coach for his son's football team. His presence in the community will truly be missed.

I invite all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing and honoring Officer Randal Simmons for his guidance and leadership in fighting to improve the lives of all Angelinos. He is survived by his wife Lisa and their two children, to whom I send my heartfelt condolence. Officer Simmons leaves a lasting legacy of caring and compassion that serves as a model to us all.●

REMEMBERING VADA SHEID

● Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, today I wish to celebrate the life and accomplishments of a great Arkansan, Mrs. Vada Webb Sheid. Mrs. Sheid was a civil servant; she was an entrepreneur; she was an inspiration. After a long battle with Alzheimer's, Vada Sheid passed away on February 11, 2008, at the age of 91. She will be sorely missed.

Born and raised in rural Arkansas near Calico Rock in the north central part of the State, she became known as one of the Twin Lakes area's biggest movers and shakers. She came from a rare breed of politicians, one marked with sincere intentions and a sense of duty. Starting as the Izard County Welfare Director at the young age of 19, her public service career stretched across five decades. Her love of public service, the area, and the people of her area was apparent in her work.

She understood the needs of her constituents and committed her time and efforts to addressing them. From the time she was first elected in 1966, she set out to replace the ferry system on Norfolk Lake by building bridges across it. After nearly 20 years of unwavering pursuit, the Norfolk Lake bridges were constructed, an act credited as her crowning achievement.

Education was another cornerstone of her tenure. As a supporter of the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act, Mrs. Sheid donated her papers to the University of Arkansas Special Collections in 1989 so that they may be shared and studied for generations to

come. North Central Arkansas did not have much to offer as a means of college education prior to the work of Vada. During her tenure, she introduced a measure that established the North Arkansas Community College in Harrison and was a key factor to the creation of the Arkansas State University at Mountain Home.

Vada and my father, David Pryor, were dear friends and had a close relationship during their many years of public service in Arkansas. I had the privilege of serving with her in the Arkansas House of Representatives. She had this calming influence about her that led her to become a mentor to many of us. Given her reputation, she was trusted as a sounding board across the State on key issues and new ideas. There is not really a story I could tell about Vada Sheid to encompass the person she was. Her story was filled with a lifetime of integrity and a steadfast passion for public service.

Her accomplishments and passion for public service continue to be an inspiration to me. I recognize the value and impact of her work in Arkansas, and during my time in the Senate, I have worked to secure Federal funding for the Vada Sheid Community Center on the Arkansas State University at Mountain Home campus. With the groundbreaking set for April 11, I am committed, now more than ever, to working with stakeholders to complete this project as a tribute to Mrs. Sheid.

Arkansas has a rich heritage of powerful, groundbreaking women. Vada Sheid's accomplishments place her in the ranks of historic greats like Hattie Caraway, Judge Elsijane Trimble Roy, my dear colleague, Senator Blanche Lambert Lincoln, and my grandmother, Susie Newton Pryor. This woman rose above the times and crossed milestones in so many of her endeavors. She was the first woman to be elected in her own right to the Arkansas Senate, and the first woman to serve in both Chambers of the Arkansas General Assembly.

My heart goes out to her family, friends, and Arkansans alike as we mourn this loss. Vada left Arkansas and the world a better place than when she found it and her legacy will continue to live on for generations to come.●

RECOGNIZING THE LADY BULLDOGS

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President today I wish to honor the Madison High School gymnastics team for winning their 14th consecutive South Dakota State Gymnastics title and breaking the national record for most consecutive State gymnastics team titles. This is truly an impressive accomplishment, and I am proud to have such fine athletes representing the State of South Dakota.

Last year, the Madison High School Bulldogs were tied with Sehome High School from Bellingham, WA, for most consecutive championship wins. How-

ever, as a result of their countless hours of hard work and dedication, the Bulldogs have shown to the Nation their outstanding athletic talent and determination by winning the 2008 State Championship and clinching the national record.

Not only did the Lady Bulldogs top the national record for most consecutive State wins, they also beat their State-best score from last year. Madison had four of the top scores in the vault, the top three in the balance beam, three of the top five in the uneven bars, and two of the top three in the floor exercise. This is evidence of the team's ability to perform well and work together in all of the categories of the championship.

The Lady Bulldogs sealed their 14th win with a final score of 141.896 points. I would like to congratulate all the young women who have worked so hard this year to win the State championship. The gymnasts of the Lady Bulldogs for the 2007-2008 season, in alphabetical order, are as follows: Laura Blom, Danielle Bloom, Katie Breuer, Kassie Finck, Lexi Finck, Theresa Knapp, Katie Mackenzie, Heidi Mogck, Mara Riedel, Sara Rogers, Jessica Strom, Kaitlyn Walker, and Heather Williams.

This remarkable accomplishment would not have been possible without the guidance and encouragement of the team's excellent coaching staff, head coach Maridee Dossett and assistant coach Kindra Wiese. Coach Dossett has been a Lady Bulldog since 1995, first as an athlete and now as a coach. She was part of the team when they won their first State title in 1995. Upon graduation, she has continued to contribute to the team and spur them on to continued success.

Bud Postma, the athletic director of the Lady Bulldogs, said the streak was a testament to past gymnasts and coaches at Madison. Linda Collignon was the coach who started the record-breaking streak 14 years ago. This national record was made possible by the dedication of the gymnasts and coaching staff of the Madison High School gymnastics team throughout the years.

I would also like to acknowledge the support and devotion of the families of the Madison Gymnastics team members and the community of Madison. Without the encouragement and sacrifice from the gymnasts' families and the dedicated support of the Madison community, this amazing accomplishment would not have been possible.

On behalf of the State of South Dakota, I am pleased to congratulate the Lady Bulldogs Gymnastics team on their recordbreaking national accomplishment and wish them the best of luck for their continued success.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.